

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SEC ENDERS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, NO, NL, DA

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN POSITION ON PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE OIL
INSTLLATIONS

REFS: (A) OSLO 0434 (B) OSLO 228

SUMMARY: NORWAY HAS DECIDED THAT FOR ITS PART
PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE OIL RIGS IN PEACETIME IS PROPER
SUBJECT OF NORTH SEA STATE RATHER THAN NATO COOPERATION
AND THAT IN WARTIME BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH THE US
IS THE PREFERRED APPROACH. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
HAS DISCUSSED THIS WITH HIS DUTCH AND DANISH COUNTER-
PARTS. END SUMMARY

1. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
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MARCH 1 WE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF NORTH SEA OIL RIG PRO-

TECTION WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF LIVELY INTEREST HERE AND OF ANTI-NATO ATTACKS FROM USSR. FRYDENLUND SAID IT WAS NORWAY'S VIEW THAT OIL RIG PROTECTION IN PEACETIME SHOULD BE MATTER FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN NORTH SEA RIPARIAN STATES OF UK, DENMARK, HOLLAND, GERMANY AND NORWAY, AND HE HAS NOW STATED THIS PUBLICLY. (IN RECENT DAYS NON-SOCIALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN HAS ECHOED THIS VIEW.) SUCH COOPERATION FRYDENLUND SAID WOULD PRINCIPALLY INVOLVE THREATS FROM TERRORISM AND WOULD IN NORWAY BE HANDLED AS POLICE ISSUE BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED MECHANICS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS APPROACH.

2. HE HAD DISCUSSED DUTCH NATO PROPOSAL FOR EURO-GROUP STUDY OF OIL RIG PROTECTION WITH DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WHEN HE WAS IN OSLO FEB 17 AND INFORMED HIM OF NORWEGIAN VIEW. HE SAID VAN DER STOEL STATED HE COULD ACCEPT NORWEGIAN APPROACH. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN, WHO VISITED OSLO FEB 27-MARCH 1, SAID IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FRYDENLUND THAT LIKE NORWEGIANS HE FOUND IT NATURAL TO DISCUSS OIL RIG PROTECTION IN NORTH SEA RATHER THAN NATO FORUM. (SECRETARY GENERAL IN DEFENSE MINISTRY TELLS US, HOWEVER, HIS MINISTRY AND DUTCH COUNTERPART DO NOT AGREE WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS.)

3. AS TO PROTECTION IN WARTIME, FRYDENLUND SAID NORWEGIANS FEEL ONLY US REALLY HAD ABILITY TO DEFEND OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY COOPERATION THIS FIELD WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE AS BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN US AND NORWAY, RECOGNIZING THAT SACLANT WAS PREPARING STUDY OF OFFSHORE PROTECTION IN WARTIME.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN I SUGGESTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NORWEGIAN DECISION ON THIS ISSUE COMING RIGHT AFTER SOVIET PROTESTS AND HIS OWN EARLIER DECISION TO AWAIT RESULTS OF STOLTENBERG COMMITTEE REVIEW MADE IT LOOK AS THOUGH NORWAY WAS CAVING IN TO PRESSURE. NOTING THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKIY

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HAD EXPRESSED TWICE TO HIM SOVIET DISAPPROVAL OF NATO INVOLVEMENT IN OFFSHORE RIG PROTECTION, HE STATED FIRMLY CONVICTION THAT NORWAY'S DECISION WAS A "RATIONAL" NOT PRESSURED ONE. (MEANWHILE, WE UNDERSTAND STOLTENBERG HAS PUSHED UP WHOLE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION OF HIS STUDY.)
BYRNE UNQTE INGERSON

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